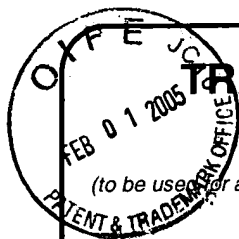


02-02-05

3731

HDP/SB/21 based on PTO/SB/21 (08-00)

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → ☐

# TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Total Number of Pages in This Submission	Application Number	10/081,166
	Filing Date	2-22-02
	First Named Inventor	Shon D. Steger et al.
	Group Art Unit	3731
	Examiner Name	David O. Reip
Attorney Docket Number		5490-000127/CPC

## ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Response <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application) <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Acknowledgment Postcard</b></p>
Remarks The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 08-0750. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.		

## SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name	Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.	Attorney Name	Michael Malinzak	Reg. No.	43,770
Signature					
Date	February 1, 2005				

## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as express mail in an envelope addressed to: Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date indicated below.

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Signature		Date	February 1, 2005

EV 570 163 035 US



**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 10/081,166  
Filing Date: 2-22-02  
Applicant: Shon D. Steger et al.  
Group Art Unit: 3731  
Examiner: David O. Reip  
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR BONE FRACTURE  
FIXATION  
Attorney Docket: 5490-000127/CPC

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Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed January 14, 2005, please amend the application as follows and consider the remarks set forth below.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 14 of this paper.